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venture to break the peace under any ordinary conditions. We condense below some of his statements, which, coming as they do from an intelligent Russian, are entitled to great weight.

Alexander III. became popular in Europe since he was declared to be the peacemaker of the nations. And now people ask themselves with anxiety whether his successor will follow in the same line, or, perhaps will rush head long into some foreign war, in order to distract people's attention from domestic affairs.

Apprehensions of that kind, we can say it quite confidently, are perfectly groundless.

Within the last thirty years Russia has made an enormous stride in advance, notwithstanding the stagnant immobility of her political institutions. She has become quite a new country. The economic conditions have changed since the emancipation of the serfs, assuming gradually the European type. But more striking still has been her intellectual growth. The bulk of the Russian educated class is entirely European in their culture; and for them autocracy is now as much an obsolete, absurd institution as for the intelligent foreign observers who look upon Russian things from outside.

For one man who joins the revolution there are thousands of men who are secretly in sympathy with the efforts to have done with the present *régime* and to obtain for their country freedom and representative government. And behind them there are hundreds of thousands and millions of people who, not having logic enough to fully adhere to a constitutional program in the European sense, are dissatisfied with the present *régime*, and want changes in the constitutional line.

Autocracy has outlived its age, and its overthrow is a question of days, the banner of democratic freedom rallying now-a-days all that is progressive and truly patriotic in Russia.

If all those who wish for a change of the system of government would all of a sudden get the courage to frankly say so, autocracy could not stand a month.

Now a war is just that powerful engine which operates such a transformation. No people can preserve a timid reticence in time of war, when the destinies of the country and the lives of those most dear to them are at stake. No police can then be strong enough to make the people silent.

Those who were in St. Petersburg at the time of the last Turkish war, when the news of the reiterated disasters under Plevna came like thunderstrokes upon the public, remember that the city seemed on the eve of a revolution.

In the present conditions of the country, moral, economical, financial, a war would be infinitely more dangerous.

On the eve of the Turkish war, when her credit was naturally at a low ebb, the Government of Russia was able to obtain a loan of eighty-seven and one-third million roubles at the premium of eight and three-tenths per cent. Since 1890 the Russian Government had to pay a premium of about 20 per cent., — a fine upon its poverty which is exceeded only by that imposed by the financiers upon the insolvent Turkey. The loan of last autumn has not been covered yet, and is not likely to be, although the French subscribed to it eight times over.

Is it possible that in such circumstances the new Czar can think of embarking upon a war? No certainly, unless he loses his mind. And, even if he does, there is the whole of his family, his ministers, and court to prevent his committing such madness. It is a question of life and death for all of them; because any arduous, not to say unsuccessful, war, unless it be a defensive one, will mean the collapse of the system by which they live and thrive. Russia must stick to peaceful policy, whatever the personal inclination of the Czar. Besides, there is not the slightest reason to suppose him to be otherwise than peacefully inclined.

Mr. Stepniak does not here give all the reasons which induce the Russian Government to keep the peace, but he probably gives the chief one. The prophets of ill are continually pointing us now to France, now to Russia, now to Germany (as Mr. Stepniak does), as the chief menace to the peace of Europe, but the more one studies the situation the more convinced one becomes that the danger is about as great, or as little, at one point as at another. The outbreak of the great war, if it ever comes, is most likely to be the result of some sudden combination of political conditions, which the most astute diplomats will not be able to resolve in a peaceful way. The whole of Europe is a vast shaving-box of war material and a match dropped in at any point may easily produce an awful conflagration. The only certain way to prevent this impending conflagration is to begin at once to remove the contents of the box. Let Russia begin this, if she desires to be a real peacemaker.

THE APPEAL FOR A LARGER ARMY.

Recommendations for the increase of the standing army of the United States continue to be made by the military men. On retiring from the command of the army of the East General O. O. Howard repeated the opinion to this effect which he had made more than once previously. The General-in-Chief of the Army, Schofield, in his report to the Secretary of War, recommends an addition of about 15,000 men to the present force. In an article recently published, Adjutant General Ruggles sets forth the purposes for which the army exists and finds by careful calculation that only 5500 men need be added to the present force to bring it up to the required efficiency. It seems that the Generals can not agree as to the increase required. Some want a small number added, others want the army doubled in size. But they all wish the policy of reduction, which prevailed from 1866 to 1879, reversed. Their difference of opinion as to the amount of increase required is a sufficient proof that the reasons leading them to wish the army enlarged are little if anything more than mere vague personal conjectures. We wish some one of them would give us in an intelligible shape exactly how each and every division of the army in all parts of the country has been employed, or passed its time, for the year 1894. The people might then be

able to judge for themselves whether any more men are needed for the same purposes.

The difference between an army of 25,000 and 30,500 men is not of any material importance, but if our country once enters upon what seems to us, from any standpoint whatever, the wholly needless and uncalled for undertaking of strengthening its "fighting line," it will continue to find reasons for an ever greater enlargement and it will finally find itself in the full tide of a dangerous and burdensome militarism, like that which is vexing and degrading Europe to-day. We are as near to England as Russia is, and if we ever commence arming against possible attacks from her (and she is the bugbear in the imaginations of all the military party) we shall soon have plenty of men at Washington who will be crying out that our whole Canadian frontier is in danger, that our twenty-eight coast-defence stations are not half enough, and then our war-budgets will begin to swell and our army to double and quadruple ad infinitum. The time to stop is before we begin, and it is to be earnestly hoped that the Representatives of the country will resist every pressure brought upon them, from no matter what source, to make additions to the present standing army.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

A happy New Year to all our readers and to all the friends of peace everywhere, made doubly happy by more faithful and earnest efforts to promote the holy cause in which we labor. May no war come during the next twelve months to disturb the happiness of our families and our communities. May our great country live in peace in all her manifold relations to the nations of the world. May the angels' song of "peace on earth" be realized more fully than ever before among all people in every clime.

The President's annual message to Congress contains an interesting statement of our relations with foreign nations, which are really peaceful everywhere. A convention has been concluded for the settlement by arbitration of the long-standing dispute with Ecuador in regard to Emilio Antos, a naturalized citizen of the United States. A similar agreement has been entered into with Venezuela for the arbitration of a long disputed claim growing out of the seizure of certain vessels of the United States.

The plenipotentiaries of Colombia, Ecuador and Peru have signed a convention agreeing to submit to Spain as arbitrator the question of ownership of a portion of the Amazonic region which each of these nations claims.

Japan has pushed on her war with China as fast as the increasing cold and the difficulties arising from being in the enemy's country have permitted her. Her northern army has outflanked the Chinese army in Manchuria, and

cut off its connection with Peking. Several minor engagements have taken place, in some of which the Chinese have fought desperately inflicting heavy losses on the Japanese, who, however, have been uniformly victorious. The Chinese fleet at Wei Hai Wai is said to be entirely helpless. The command of the Chinese army has been taken from Li Hung Chang and given to another. Ministers Denby and Dunn have cleared the way for peace negotiations between the two countries and special peace Commissioners are on their way to Tokio to meet the Japanese Commissioners and arrange the terms of peace. Hon. John W. Foster, ex-Secretary of State of the United States, has accepted the invitation of China to act as her special adviser in the peace negotiations. The war, let us hope, will soon end.

At the Lord Mayor's banquet in London, in November, the Prime Minister of England, Lord Rosebery, spoke of the vast armaments of Europe and of the press, as constituting two of the chief dangers to international harmony. As to the former he said:

"One danger is those enormous armaments that roll up like snowballs, and snowballs which seem never to end, and which are, I freely acknowledge, in their essence, being territorial armies, measures of defence and not of defiance — that there are in those great armaments some danger to peace itself; because, in the first place, there is the feeling that you cannot for ever perfect tools of great precision and great expense without sometimes having a wish to test them and to use them; and, in the second place, there is the still greater danger that the peoples who have to bear the burden of these armaments, weary of the drain of blood and tax that they involve, may some day say, 'It will be better to put an end to this long continued pressure, and to put all to the hazard of the die.'"

Of the press he said:

"Well, I am sorry to say that one of the great dangers to that good understanding is that mighty engine which we call the Press. No one yields to me in admiration for the authority that it exercises, and for the high-minded way in which, as a rule, that authority is exercised. But I do not think that the Press itself, in the fierce competition which exists between different papers, in order to obtain the latest and the most startling intelligence, sufficiently weighs what effect that intelligence may have on the great international understandings of the world. I would then ask the Press to sift such intelligence a little before it gives it publicity. What I would wish to inspire in anyone connected with journalism who hears me to-night, and who cares at all about the largest object of serving his country in the truest way, is this, that in dealing with our differences with nations, we should remember not so much the petty issues that divide us, but the large bonds which connect us."

The Secretary of the American Peace Society has during the month of December delivered addresses at Association Hall, Philadelphia, at the William Penn Commemorative service, at the Olivet Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, at the Union Church at East Lexington, Mass., and before the Baptist Social Union of Boston.